

HEALTH POLICY RESEARCH SCHOLARS

A Robert Wood Johnson Foundation program



Be a Change Leader. Build a Culture of Health.

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: FEBRUARY 22–APRIL 19, 2016

New leadership development and funding opportunity for first-or second-year doctoral scholars, from underrepresented populations or disadvantaged backgrounds, pursuing any research-focused academic discipline and interested in health policy research.



Health Policy Research Scholars is an unprecedented initiative supporting full-time doctoral scholars, from underrepresented populations and disadvantaged backgrounds, who are entering the first or second year of their doctoral program (by Sept. 1, 2016). Participants will complete their doctoral program concurrently and:

- Design and apply their health policy-related work in new ways to meet the pressing needs of communities.
- Collaborate with other scholars and professionals from diverse fields to create a healthier, more equitable future for all people.
- Develop profound leadership skills to advance a Culture of Health that will enable all to live longer, healthier lives now and for generations to come.

Health Policy Research Scholars is led by Johns Hopkins University, with participants completing their doctoral programs at their home institutions across the country. It is one of four national change leadership programs designed by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) to extend the influence and impact of leaders working to build a Culture of Health—one in which health is a guiding social value and everyone can attain the best health possible. Participants will become the next generations of leaders, collaborating across sectors to upend the status quo, address health disparities, and take bold steps to achieve greater equity in communities across the country.

"Supporting and mentoring pre-doctoral scholars from historically disadvantaged populations will create the next generation of informed scientists who will lead in the translation of research into the innovative thinking necessary to achieve health equity."

—Harolyn M.E. Belcher, MD, MHS
Director, Center for Diversity in Public Health Leadership Training;
Associate Professor,
Johns Hopkins University

Program Elements and Timeline

PROGRAM ELEMENTS

Each year, *Health Policy Research Scholars* will select up to 50 first- or second-year doctoral scholars in a research-focused discipline that can advance a Culture of Health—for example, architecture, urban planning, transportation, health policy, education, social sciences, or others. To drive important change in every sector, this national program seeks participants from a wide range of health and non-health fields who are training to be researchers and are interested in health policy research. Participants will continue in the program for five years, culminating with their dissertation. Participants work and learn from their home communities; they do not need to relocate and can continue working or pursuing research full time.

Participants will:

- Attend at least one annual gathering (travel funded by the program).
- Participate in leadership development trainings, coursework and mentoring via webinar and other virtual learning technology.
- Establish and strengthen professional ties to public health and industry leaders.
- Receive dissertation support and mentoring.
- Receive an annual stipend of up to \$30,000 for up to four years. They may continue in the program, without the annual stipend, during the fifth year or until they complete their doctoral program, whichever occurs first. Participants are also eligible for a competitive dissertation grant of up to \$10,000.

Upon completion of the program, participants will have met all requirements of their doctoral program, be connected with a national group of leaders working in diverse sectors, and be equipped to apply advanced skills, including:

- Leadership and collaboration across sectors, professions, and disciplines
- Community engagement, including ability to develop research with the community
- Application of research to influence policy related to population health, health equity, and social determinants of health
- Issue-framing and public will-building
- Deep understanding of equity, Culture of Health, research, and other concepts
- Communication and advocacy

HEALTH POLICY RESEARCH SCHOLARS: PROGRAM PARTNERS

AcademyHealth
George Washington University
Johns Hopkins University
Mayo Clinic
University of California—Los Angeles
University of Michigan

CHANGE LEADERSHIP AT RWJF

In addition to *Health Policy Research Scholars*, RWJF supports these other change leadership programs:

- *Interdisciplinary Research Leaders* (for teams of researchers and community leaders)
- *Culture of Health Leaders* (for community-based teams)
- *Clinical Scholars* (for practicing clinicians)

Each program combines leadership development, mentoring, and collaboration across programs and sectors to build a Culture of Health. Details and application information at www.rwjf.org/changeleaders.

2016 TIMELINE



2016 Call for Applications

Application Deadline: April 19, 2016



Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

HEALTH POLICY RESEARCH SCHOLARS PROGRAM

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- Design and apply their health-policy-related work in new ways to meet the pressing needs of communities;
- Collaborate with other scholars and professionals from diverse fields to create a healthier, more equitable future for all people; and,
- Develop profound leadership skills to advance a Culture of Health that will enable all to live longer, healthier lives now and for generations to come.

Participants will become the next generations of leaders, collaborating across sectors to upend the status quo, address health disparities, and take bold steps to achieve greater equity in communities across the country.

BACKGROUND

In 2013 and 2014, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) conducted a strategic review and thorough analysis of all of our areas of work. After careful assessment, RWJF Trustees and leadership agreed that the current and evolving landscape in health and health care demands different and new approaches to the challenges we face (e.g., widening health disparities, poor value for high health care expenditures, increasingly diverse and expanding populations of underserved communities, and more).

The Foundation has embraced a new vision: to build a national Culture of Health to enable all in our diverse society to lead healthier lives, now and for generations to come. RWJF believes health should be a fundamental and guiding social value—and that America should become a nation in which promoting health is as important as treating illness. Together with our grantees and collaborators, we strive to bring about meaningful, lasting change. For more information about how RWJF is framing a Culture of Health, please visit cultureofhealth.org.

This new direction means changing the way we work, and the work we do. Recognizing the critical role that leaders play in advancing a Culture of Health and social change, RWJF is committed to continuing our investments in developing human capital and aligning them more closely to the Foundation's new strategic vision. Building on decades of these successes, four new change leadership programs will deploy creative and new approaches to develop networks of leaders who become engaged champions and are

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well-positioned to move the nation toward a Culture of Health. The new programs also will tap a rich network of alumni from prior RWJF human capital programs as mentors, technical assistance providers, and valuable advisers. The four programs aim to: connect people across sectors as well as disciplines, capitalize on technology to promote networking and mentoring, and reach and support more individuals. We anticipate that participation in these programs will lead to enriching and lifelong partnerships with other participants and the Foundation as we work together to build and strengthen healthy practices; we believe alumni of these new programs will serve as valuable role models and mentors to future participants, as well.

In creating the *Health Policy Research Scholars* program, we recognized that the increasing diversity in the country's population demands an increase in the diversity of researchers to ensure diverse perspectives are brought to bear as our nation identifies key health policy questions and evaluates the impact of proposed policy solutions in our nation. Given the disproportionate burden of poor health (and the disproportionate exposure to environmental and socioeconomic conditions that lead to poor health) that is borne by individuals disadvantaged because of their race or ethnicity, socioeconomic status, or other factors, increasing the number of doctoral scholars from disadvantaged backgrounds and/or underrepresented populations is an essential step in building a Culture of Health.

Policy decisions in a variety of sectors have significant impacts on population health. It is therefore important to have doctoral scholars from a variety of disciplines working collaboratively in this increasingly complex health policy arena. Moreover, scholarship and leadership must work hand-in-hand to translate and rapidly move research findings into actionable decision points for communities and policymakers.

THE PROGRAM

The goal of *Health Policy Research Scholars* is to create a large cadre of diverse doctoral students from multiple (nonclinical, research-focused) disciplines—students whose research, connections, and leadership will inform and influence policy toward a Culture of Health. Specifically, we aim to recruit doctoral students from a variety of social sciences (e.g., urban planning, health, economics, ethnography, education, social work, etc.) who are training to be researchers. For the 2016 cohort, the *Health Policy Research Scholars* program will enroll up to 50 scholars who are interested in health policy research and from underrepresented populations and/or disadvantaged backgrounds. Examples of eligible individuals include, but are not limited to, first-generation college graduates, individuals from lower socioeconomic backgrounds, individuals from racial and ethnic groups underrepresented in doctoral programs, and individuals with disabilities. *Health Policy Research Scholars* will be completed concurrently with the doctoral program and is designed to enhance and enrich the doctoral program. Scholars will receive an annual stipend of up to \$30,000 for up to four years. Participants may continue in the *Health Policy Research Scholars* program, without the annual stipend, for a fifth year, or until they complete their doctoral program, whichever occurs first. Participants are also eligible for a competitive dissertation grant of up to \$10,000.

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Each scholar will identify a home institution mentor. The home institution is the scholar's doctoral degree-granting institution. The home institution mentor will support and guide the success of the scholar.

Program Activities

Scholars will attend in-person and online learning seminars and courses leading to a Culture of Health certificate—in addition to participating in research, attending research presentations, and contributing to publications—concurrently with their doctoral program. These activities are designed to support and enrich the doctoral program.

Examples of *Health Policy Research Scholars* activities are outlined below and subject to change:

Term	Health Policy Research Scholars Program Planned Activities and Learning Objectives
Fall 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Home institution mentor and scholar orientation• Create individual development plan• Online course: Introduce scholars to public health and process of health policy development and implementation
Spring 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Online course: Expose scholars to the tools of health policy analysis and evaluation
Summer 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Summer at Johns Hopkins University: Expose scholars to methods of communication in policy, e.g., op-ed, legislative briefings, decision memos, etc.• Practical application of the tools of advocacy• Introduction to national health policy leaders (three weeks)
Fall 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Online course: Expose scholars to the process of translating scientific research to create a Culture of Health
Spring 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Online course (Level 2): Learning the process of translating scientific research to build a Culture of Health
Summer 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Summer at a partner site: Provide scholars health policy research experience at a partner site (e.g., UCLA, Mayo Clinic, the University of Michigan), and/or other selected research mentorship sites
Fall 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Online seminar: Provide exposure to the most cutting-edge research related to a Culture of Health
Spring 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Online seminar (Level 2): Provide exposure to the most cutting-edge research related to a Culture of Health
Summer 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete a health policy project and presentation based on research at a partner site (to be determined with Johns Hopkins University)• Interaction with national policymakers• Media and leadership training
Fall 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Online seminar: Contemporary issues in health policy research• Optional: Supervised, peer-led Web meetings to provide a support group for dissertation completion and doctoral requirements
Spring 4	

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Summer 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Writing institute retreat• Optional summer in Ann Arbor, Mich.: Select scholars, based on research /dissertation, will be sponsored to take courses at the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR)
Fall 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Online seminar: Faculty-supervised, peer-led Web meetings to provide a support group for dissertation completion
Summer 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Optional summer in Ann Arbor, Mich.: Scholars offered opportunity to take courses at the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR)• Writing institute retreat• Online Seminar: Faculty-supervised, peer-led Web meetings to provide a support group for dissertation completion

Participants should anticipate spending up to one-half-day per week during the academic year and from two to eight weeks during summers in Years 1 through 3 on program-related activities.

Home Institution Mentor

At the time of application, doctoral students must have identified a faculty mentor (or a provisional mentor) at their home institution, who will be asked to confirm serving in this role in a written agreement. The *Health Policy Research Scholars* program home institution mentor will be responsible for academic support and career guidance at the scholar's home institution, where the scholar is completing their respective doctoral program. The Health Policy Research Scholar's home institution mentor will have periodic meetings with the scholar, and attend a mentoring institute and other meetings sponsored by the program. The national leadership program center will provide the home institution mentor with an honorarium and reimbursement for reasonable expenses.

Program Goals

After *Health Policy Research Scholars* program completion, the scholar should:

- Gain extensive knowledge of the multiple determinants of health.
- Be able to apply research and interdisciplinary collaboration skills to engage multiple sectors (e.g., policy, education, business, communities, institutions, and agencies) to effectively translate research findings that will inform health policies leading to health equity.
- Better understand strategies to leverage diverse interdisciplinary networks of researchers.
- Have the opportunity to establish meaningful and sustained relationships and collaborations with other RWJF change leaders and programs.
- Have the opportunity to contribute to research and a national dialogue on health policy and equity leading to a Culture of Health.

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TOTAL AWARDS

The *Health Policy Research Scholars* program will award stipends for up to 50 scholars for the 2016 cohort. Each scholar will receive an annual stipend of up to \$30,000 for up to four years. Participants may continue in the *Health Policy Research Scholars* program, without the annual stipend, for a fifth year, or until they complete their doctoral program, whichever occurs first. Scholars will also be eligible for dissertation grants of up to \$10,000 if the proposed dissertation is related to health policy research.

Payment of Awards

All participant stipends will be paid to scholar's degree-granting institution ("home institution"). Home institutions must be based in the United States or its territories and willing to receive the funds from RWJF. Home institutions should have the administrative and financial capacity and experience to accept the award and to be able to distribute funds consistent with the permitted use of funds described herein. The home institution will be responsible for signing a Letter of Agreement with RWJF and submitting annual financial and narrative reports to the Foundation.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The *Health Policy Research Scholars* program is open to full-time doctoral students from underrepresented populations and/or disadvantaged backgrounds, entering the first or second year of their doctoral program (by September 1, 2016), from any nonclinical discipline, who are training to be researchers and are interested in health policy research. *Health Policy Research Scholars* is not intended for students pursuing a clinical doctorate without a research focus. Rather, the program is designed for doctoral students from a variety of social sciences (e.g., urban planning, health, economics, ethnography, education, social work).

Examples of eligible individuals include, but are not limited to, first-generation college graduates, individuals from lower socioeconomic backgrounds, individuals from racial and ethnic groups underrepresented in doctoral programs, and individuals with disabilities.

Additional eligibility criteria include:

- Applicants must be U.S. citizens, permanent residents, or individuals granted Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services at the time of application.
- Government employees who are not considered government officials¹ under Section 4946 of the Internal Revenue Code are eligible to apply.

¹ For these purposes, a government official is defined as any person who holds one of the following:

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- Applicants cannot be related by blood or marriage to any Officer² or Trustee of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, or be a descendant of its founder, Robert Wood Johnson.

DIVERSITY STATEMENT

Consistent with RWJF values, this program embraces diversity and inclusion across multiple dimensions, such as race, ethnicity, gender, disability, age and socioeconomic status. We strongly encourage applications in support of individual candidates who will help us expand the perspectives and experiences we bring to our work. We believe that the more we include diverse perspectives and experiences in our work, the more successful we will be as we strive together to build a Culture of Health, enabling all in our diverse society to lead healthier lives, now, and for generations to come.

SELECTION CRITERIA

RWJF, in collaboration with the *Health Policy Research Scholars* national leadership program center, and national advisory committee (NAC) will select scholars. The selection criteria will include:

- Meets the eligibility criteria described above;
- A commitment to utilize their discipline-based research training to affect health policy and leadership to improve population health
- Commitment to leadership activities

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1. An elective public office in the executive or legislative branch of the Government of the United States.
 2. An office in the executive or judicial branch of the Government of the United States, appointment to which was made by the President.
 3. A position in the executive, legislative, or judicial branch of the Government of the United States—(A) which is listed in schedule C of rule VI of the Civil Service Rules; or (B) the compensation for which is equal to or greater than the lowest rate of basic pay for the Senior Executive Service under section 5382 of title 5, United States Code.
 4. A position under the House of Representatives or the Senate of the United States held by an individual receiving gross compensation at an annual rate of \$15,000 or more.
 5. An elective or appointive public office in the executive, legislative, or judicial branch of the government of a State, possession of the United States, or political subdivision or other area of any of the foregoing, or of the District of Columbia, held by an individual receiving gross compensation at an annual rate of \$20,000 or more, and a significant part of whose activities include "the independent performance of policy-making functions."
 6. A position as personal or executive assistant or secretary to any of the foregoing, or
 7. A member of the Internal Revenue Service Oversight Board.

² The Officers are the Chairman of the Board of Trustees; President and CEO; Chief of Staff; Executive Vice President; General Counsel; Secretary; Assistant Secretary; Treasurer; and Assistant Treasurer of the Foundation.

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- Readiness to engage with different sectors (e.g., health, education, policy, business)
- Interest and willingness to use interdisciplinary research approaches
- Evidence of support and commitment from home institution faculty member and/or department
- Potential to contribute to the broader vision of building a Culture of Health

SELECTION PROCESS

Applicants will submit an initial application and be selected per the eligibility criteria and review of supporting materials. A committee made up of representatives from the national leadership program center, the national advisory committee, and RWJF staff members will review each application based on the eligibility criteria. Semifinalists will be invited for interviews. Semifinalists will also be required to provide additional “Supplemental Application” information, including a form completed by each individual’s home institution documenting that the organization is willing to fulfill the requirements as a home institution, as well as the home institution mentor agreement. After the semifinalist interviews are completed, the NAC and the national leadership program center will make recommendations to RWJF, and RWJF will make the final decisions.

EVALUATION

The main purpose of evaluation at RWJF is learning rather than accountability. An independent research group selected and funded by RWJF will conduct an evaluation of the program. RWJF intends for this initiative to contribute to national efforts to promote a Culture of Health. As a condition of accepting RWJF funds, scholars must participate in the evaluation, which may include assisting with necessary data collection to accomplish the evaluation objectives.

MONITORING

RWJF, with the assistance of the national leadership program center, monitors the participant’s efforts and stewardship of funds to assure accountability. Home institutions, in conjunction with participants, will be required to submit annual narrative and financial reports. Submission of required reports, full-time enrollment in a doctoral program, the individual’s satisfactory participation and progress toward the program’s goals, and good standing in the individual’s doctoral program with a grade point average of at least 3.0 (when applicable) are prerequisites to receiving funding after the initial program year.

APPLICANT SURVEY PROCESS

To help us measure the effectiveness of RWJF grantmaking and improve the grant application experience, we will survey the lead person listed in applications submitted under this call for applications. Shortly after the application deadline, the lead applicant will be contacted by Princeton Survey Research

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Associates International (PSRAI), an independent research firm, and asked to complete a brief, online survey about the proposal process and applicant characteristics. This voluntary questionnaire will take no more than 15 minutes to complete. Responses provided to PSRAI will not impact the funding decision for the proposals in any way.

PSRAI will protect the confidentiality of the responses. RWJF will not receive any data that links a name with the survey responses.

If you have any questions about the survey or the use of the data, feel free to email applicantfeedback@rwjf.org.

USE OF GRANT FUNDS

Grants will be made to the scholars' home institution to support the scholar's participation in the program. Scholars will work with their home institutions to determine how the grant funds will be used to support the participants' successful completion of the program, for example, living expenses, relevant conference/workshop registration fees, travel, and supplies. Grant funding is not intended to support the individual's tuition or indirect expenses of the home institutions. Travel expenses for all required program meetings and trainings will be paid directly by the national leadership program center or RWJF.

HOW TO APPLY

Applications for this solicitation must be submitted electronically. Visit www.rwjf.org/cfs/hprs and use the *Apply Online* link for this solicitation. If you have not already done so, you will be required to register at <http://my.rwjf.org> before you begin the application process. Along with your online application, you will be required to upload a maximum of a four-page curriculum vitae (CV). Two letters of support from faculty at your undergraduate or graduate school are also required. We strongly recommended that one of the letters of support be written by the home institution faculty member.

All applicants should log in to the system and familiarize themselves with online submission requirements well before the submission deadline. Staff may not be able to assist all applicants in the final 24 hours before the submission deadline. In fairness to all applicants, the program will not accept late submissions.

Please direct inquiries to RWJF_HPRS@jhu.edu. Be sure to include your full name and phone number. We will make every effort to respond to all inquiries within 24 hours.

We encourage interested applicants to participate in an optional applicant webinar scheduled for March 3, 2016. You must register in advance at <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07ec8l35ss02032bc6&llr=t74qmveab>. The webinar will be recorded and made available to those who are not able to participate.

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PROGRAM DIRECTION

Direction and technical assistance for this program are provided by Johns Hopkins University, which serves as the national leadership program center, located at:

Health Policy Research Scholars

Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

Candler Building

111 Market Place, Suite 900

Baltimore, MD 21202

Phone: (410) 955-3774

Fax: (410) 614-8964

Email: RWJF_HPRS@jhu.edu

Website: <http://healthpolicyresearch-scholars.org/>

Responsible staff members at the national leadership program center are:

- Thomas A. LaVeist, PhD, Johns Hopkins University, *program director*
- Harolyn Belcher, MD, MHS, Kennedy Krieger Institute, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, *program co-director*
- Lydia Isaac, PhD, George Washington University, *program manager*

Responsible staff members at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation are:

- Denise E. Herrera, PhD, MCHES, *program officer*
- Andrea Daitz, MA, *program associate*
- Maddalena Moreira, *program financial analyst*

KEY DATES AND DEADLINES

February 25, 2016 (1–2 p.m. ET)

Webinar for potential applicants of all four leadership programs.

March 3, 2016 (12–1 p.m. ET)

Webinar for interested applicants of the *Health Policy Research Scholars* program.

April 19, 2016 (3 p.m. ET)

Deadline for receipt of full applications.*

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May 23–June 24, 2016

Semifinalist applicant interviews.

June 24, 2016

Deadline for receipt of semifinalist supplemental applications.

Mid-July 2016

Finalists notified of funding recommendations.

September 1, 2016

Program begins. Stipend funding initiated for program participants.

September 25-28, 2016

Fall Institute, Princeton, N.J.

ABOUT THE ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION

For more than 40 years the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has worked to improve health and health care. We are working with others to build a national Culture of Health, enabling everyone in America to live longer, healthier lives. For more information, visit www.rwjf.org. Follow the Foundation on Twitter at www.rwjf.org/twitter or on Facebook at www.rwjf.org/facebook.

Sign up to receive email alerts on upcoming calls for proposals at www.rwjf.org/funding.

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